ADMINISTRATION REPORT OF MILITARY WORKS

OF THE

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

(GENERAL BRANCH)

BOMBAY PRESIDENCY,

FOR THE YEAR

1899-1900.

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MILITARY WORKS.

GENERAL REMARKS.

1. The following stations were under the control of the Public Works Department during the year :—

Poona District.

Ahmednagar. | Purandhar.
Sirúr. | Khandála.

Sátára.

Bombay District.

Málegaon. | Baroda.
Bhúj. | Surat.

Thána.

Deesa District.

Ahmedabad. | Rájkot.

2. The expenditure during the year on Military Works (inclusive of contributions), amounted to Rs. 1,66,482, of which Rs. 30,013 were for original works; Rs. 85,070 for repairs; Rs. 24,713 for establishment; Rs. 1,578 for tools and plant, and Rs. 25,108 for Barrack Department.

3. The Military Works Revenue for the year amounted to Rs. 10,270.

4. The principal works carried out during the year were as follows :—

I.—ACCOMMODATION FOR TROOPS.

3.—Improvements to existing Buildings in the Plains.

5. (*a*) The Rifle Range for British Infantry at Ahmednagar, commenced the preceding year, was completed at a total cost of Rs. 4,835 against an estimate of Rs. 4,865, the expenditure during the year being Rs. 3,878. It is constructed on the old disused Royal Artillery Range, and is of the latest standard design. Ahmednagar.

(*b*) The Stop Butt in the British Infantry Rifle Range at Ahmedabad has been raised to a height of 40 feet at a cost of Rs. 1,167 against an estimate of Rs. 1,167. Ahmedabad.

Khandála. (*c*) Special repairs to Barrack No. 1, and the Station Hospital at Khandála Sanitarium, were completed at the total expenditure of Rs. 15,796 against the estimate of Rs. 15,866, the expenditure during the year being Rs. 8,796.

These buildings were constructed in 1853 of a frame work of cut teak with brick nogging filling for the walls. The wooden posts, on which the strength of the structure depended, were rotten and considerably out of plumb.

As their condition was dangerous they have been re-constructed, fresh wood being substituted for the old that was rotten, and efficient ties and an extra purlin being also provided.

3.—Improvements to existing Buildings in the Hills.

Purandhar. (*a*) The walls of the Apothecary's quarters at Purandhar being unsound, were re-constructed and thorough repairs made to the roof. Some minor improvements, such as enclosing a verandah with dwarf walls, &c, were also carried out. The amount of the estimate is Rs. 2,698, of which Rs. 2,684 were expended, the outlay during the year being Rs. 1,847.

6.—Studs.

Horse Hospital Remount Depôt at Ahmednagar.

(*a*) *Erection of sick horse standings.*

Ahmednagar This stable will consist of 36 standings in two rows, each stable measuring 10′ × 9′, with a five feet verandah. A part of the work is in progress.

(*b*) *Erection of Sick Horse Loose Boxes.*

This block consists of 24 boxes, 12 on either side, measuring 14′ × 12′, also with a five feet verandah.

This part of the work has been completed. The amount of expenditure during the year was Rs. 12,784 against an estimate of Rs. 18,782.

(*c*) The west ends of the Remount Depôt stables Nos. 3, 4, 5 and 6 at Ahmednagar were converted from double tiled roof on brick walls to corrugated iron roof on iron pillars. Parts of the roofs, which were left unfinished when the special repairs were done to the stables, have been completed, making an addition of two stalls each to each stable. The expenditure during the year was Rs. 964 against an estimate of Rs. 1,063.

(*d*) Farm Overseer's Quarters, Remount Depôt, at Ahmednagar, consisting of 1 main room, 2 bed-rooms, 2 verandah rooms, 2 bath-rooms and open verandah with out-houses, &c., were in progress, the amount of the estimate being Rs. 4,456, and expenditure during the year, Rs. 1,913.

VIII.—GENERAL CANTONMENT WORKS.

1.—Water-supply.

Kirkee. 7. The works at the Páshán Tank, as well as pipes, cisterns, &c., for the water-supply of Kirkee, were maintained in an efficient state at a cost of Rs. 2,690.

(*a*) The supply in the Páshán Tank began to fail in December, and the water-supply of Kirkee from that month was

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maintained by pumping from the Mula River. Certain additions and alterations to pipes were necessary for the purpose, and they were carried out at a cost of Rs. 1,091. There was no Capital expenditure on the works during the year under report. Kirkee—*continued.*

(*b*) The actual expense of pumping from December to 31st March amounted to Rs. 2,046, and this was charged against Military estimates.

8. A reservoir at Kapurwadi in connection with the water-supply of Ahmednagar was under construction during the year. The work was undertaken solely for famine purposes, but will be useful in supplementing the water-supply to the Cantonments of Ahmednagar and the Towns of Ahmednagar and Bhingár. The dam will be 1 mile long by 45′ maximum height, &c., and stands across the Bhingár Nála at no great distance from the Cantonment. The tank-bed will cover a part of the ground traversed by the above-named aqueducts and the two outlets will directly connect with them. The work previously done consisted of the excavation and filling in of most of (practically all) the puddle trench, and a part of the embankment was also constructed, the cost at normal rates being Rs. 42,619 and at famine rates Rs. 1,06,235. The bank work and a part of the puddle work was, however, found to have been done in so imperfect a manner that a further sum of Rs. 28,635 had this season to be spent in demolishing and making good the defects. The embankment was also pushed on with, and the puddle trench across the nála bed excavated to rock and filled in, a commencement being made with the two outlets and the pitching of the water-face of the dam. The excavation of the waste weir channel was, moreover, put in hand. A revised estimate, including provision for a service road 2 miles in length, is under preparation, and the details in connection with the outlet arrangements have been recast. Sanction to the necessary masonry work and to the purchase of the pipes required for the outlets has been granted, and it is hoped to do everything but actually close the dam before the famine ceases. The work is in progress. The maximum number of relief workers employed on any one day was 8,897 on the 30th March. The expenditure during the year was Rs. 72,974, the total expenditure being Rs. 1,79,209 against the Famine Abstract Estimate of Rs. 1,58,590. Ahmednagar.

9. The work of erecting pumps for improving the water-supply, &c., of the Barracks at Ahmednagar, described in the last year's report, was completed at a total expenditure of Rs. 5,725 against an estimate of Rs. 5,728, the expenditure during the year being Rs. 902.

10. Seven Siemen's patent 1″ water meters for water connection with bungalows in the Ahmedabad Cantonment were provided during the year at a total cost of Rs. 560 against the total estimated amount of Rs. 560. Ahmedabad.

MINOR WORKS AND REPAIRS.

11. No new works of any importance were carried out during the year, and operations were confined to minor works and maintenance and repairs of existing buildings, water-supply works, and cantonment roads.